

be one of the best in Texas. I salute his leadership, congratulate him on his retirement, and wish him nothing but the best in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Belfast Agreement, or what has come to be known as the Good Friday Agreement.

Twenty years ago today, leaders in the North of Ireland as well as the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom joined in one of the world's most important diplomatic achievements—securing an agreement that would lead to the end of centuries of armed conflict.

The agreement required courage and fortitude by all those who sought an end to violence and a better way forward. It was unique in that it laid out commitments for the future as well as a path to achieving those goals. It allowed differing traditions to pursue their beliefs through politics rather than violence, and permitted those long excluded from the system to take up their cause in an open and transparent way.

The Good Friday Agreement was an achievement by and for those in the Republic, the UK, and the North, but the support it enjoyed from the United States pushed it over the line. While it never would have happened without the courage of leaders like Gerry Adams and Tony Blair, I also believe progress would have stalled absent the courage and tenacity of the Irish-American community, the Clinton Administration, and bipartisan support from Congress.

Today is a day to celebrate and recognize all that has been achieved: Belfast is no longer an active war zone, rural areas live in relative peace, and a centuries-long system of repression has in many ways been put to rest. The agreement has succeeded in so many ways that for many it is increasingly difficult for new generations to remember the severity of the conflict. In fact, many aspects of the peace-building process in the North have been studied and duplicated elsewhere throughout the world.

But this is also a moment to acknowledge the challenges ahead that we must tackle in order to sustain peace and prosperity. Many aspects of the agreement have made important progress including the devolution of justice and reforms to policing. But key provisions of the agreement related to the Irish language remain unfulfilled. There is still no Bill of Rights for the North. And the serious reality of Brexit threatens an unnecessary return to a border that would re-divide the North from the Republic.

All these challenges mean the United States cannot afford to take its eye off the ball. It means the Trump Administration should respond to bipartisan calls to move forward with the appointment of a special envoy to the North. It means the United States needs to engage diplomatically. And it means that commitments should be kept to ensure an ongoing peace.

In the end, the Good Friday Agreement was an incredible achievement. But it was a process, not an end in itself. We must continue to do all that we can to sustain the hope it created for a peaceful future not just for those in the North but for those who believe in human rights and human dignity throughout the world.

RECOGNIZING PAUL SCHMITZ

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend Paul Schmitz and congratulate him on his retirement from the Christian County Board after twenty-two years of service.

For more than two decades, Paul has worked to improve the lives of citizens in Christian County, overseeing numerous projects within the county. He served as Chairman for four years and later served as Vice Chairman for more than 10 years.

Paul began serving on the board in 1996, and dove right in on tackling the big issues. Shortly after his election to the board, controversy arose surrounding a proposed livestock facility in Stonington. Paul took it upon himself to listen to the public's concerns and learn what he could about the issue.

However, if you ask him, Paul's proudest achievement during his time with the county board was bringing public transportation to Christian County. The Central Illinois Public Transit service was implemented in 2015 and offers door-to-door transportation, something he says is necessary for the aging population. Paul and the county board played an active role in introducing this service to the people of Christian County, which provides residents with reliable transportation to doctors' appointments, the grocery store, and community events.

I am proud to recognize Paul's work as a leader on the Christian County Board. He is a true public servant who has dedicated twenty-two years to the people of Christian County and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMANDA TAYLOR'S LEADERSHIP AT BASF SOUTHFIELD

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amanda Taylor as she receives an award from STEP Ahead for her work at BASF. She is an impassioned leader and is deserving of this honor.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Production (STEP) Ahead Awards Gala is an annual celebration to honor women in manufacturing who are providing leadership in their companies. American women make up approximately 50 percent of the country's workforce, but only 29 percent of the manufacturing industry, and STEP Ahead seeks to highlight the women who are paving the way for a more inclusive and equal field of work.

The Manufacturing Institute is recognizing 130 women in manufacturing from across the country who are leaders in their respective fields and positions, ranging from shop worker to company executive. Amanda Taylor is extremely deserving of this recognition for the work that she has done for BASF's Southfield Site through her leadership.

Amanda Taylor serves as an EHS Specialist III at BASF's southeastern Michigan site and plays a key role in day to day operations. Her work in revamping the site's safety programs helped increase employment from 300 employees to 800 as well as a distinguished and successful Responsible Care audit in 2016. Her attention to detail and passion for the work that she has done allowed for analysis of different practices the company has implemented and will continue to implement, including the recycling of 122,000 metric tons of refining catalysts each year. Ms. Taylor is known for her creativity and drive; as a leader, she is always looking for ways to better community engagement and has helped BASF form partnerships with the American Cancer Society and Dress for Success, a charity that helps female veterans find job opportunities after returning home. She serves as the Chair of the Southfield chapter of the Women in Business employee group, where she discusses ways to bring more women into the manufacturing industry. Ms. Taylor's leadership is inspiring and continues to open doors for women in the manufacturing industry, and she is truly deserving of tonight's recognition by STEP Ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Amanda Taylor for her groundbreaking work with BASF. We are grateful for her leadership as a woman in the workplace and look forward to seeing her continued success in the years to come.

LT. COL. MARK YOUNG TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lt. Col. Mark Young for his 35 years of volunteerism in Colorado. His service to others began during the blizzard of 1982 where he spent all night in his truck with his CB radio answering calls to help stranded motorists.

On top of his volunteer work, Lt. Col. Young spent 29 years as a volunteer paramedic in Costilla County, using his knowledge as a paramedic to help thousands of his fellow citizens. In addition, he assisted his community in the creation of a volunteer ambulance service.

In 1996, Lt. Col. Young continued his service and joined the Montrose County Sheriff Posse as a volunteer search and rescue firefighter. Over the next 20 years he provided hundreds of hours of free helicopter service, and went on numerous rescue missions, providing vital helicopter support on each of those rescues. Just over a year ago, Lt. Col. Young and his team were able to rescue a pilot from Colorado Springs that got wrecked in the Flat Tops Wilderness Area in Garfield County Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, whether it was spending all night on Christmas Eve helping motorists during a blizzard, or flying a helicopter for Search